

From: Dave Russell/ESC/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 1/5/2012 9:34:16 AM
To: Stevie Wilding/ESC/R3/USEPA/US
CC:
Subject: Re: Method for bacteria

For drinking water potability only a presence/absence test is required. A 100mL sample must be entirely free (absence) of total coliforms and E. coli.

"SM 9223 Colilert" for total coliforms and E. coli is an EPA approved method and commonly performed by contract labs, but there are plenty of other EPA-approved methods that would be acceptable, such as "SM 9223 Colisure" or "SM 9221B,E".

If they want a quantitative result, they could do "SM 9223 Colilert QT", the quantitative version of Colilert that uses the "Quantitray" multiple-well tray. Although it is a quantitative test, some labs use the test to meet the dw presence/absence requirement. This practice is acceptable. Labs like it because if they get a positive result ("presence") for either total coliform or E. coli, they also immediately have a number to go along with it. The Maryland state lab does this.

Hope this helps. Send more questions if you have them.
Will be back and forth from cubicle to lab today.

Dave

From: Stevie Wilding/ESC/R3/USEPA/US
To: Dave Russell/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/04/2012 04:11 PM
Subject: Method for bacteria

Upcoming sampling and analysis for Residential Wells is being planned in Dimock this month. We were on a conference call and they are planning on contracting the work out using Method SM922. Is that a proper/sufficient method?